



Library Info Alert



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Library Info Alert focuses on recent developments in the field of library science and information management in the United States. The *Library Info Alert* contains summaries of recent articles from leading library-related periodicals and recommended Internet sites. Our goal is to help the growing number of Greek librarians to maintain their libraries as centers for information and lifelong learning in the electronic environment of the 21st century.

1. Google Partners with Libraries in Massive Digitization Project (American Libraries, January 2005, Vol. 36, Iss. 1, pp. 26 - 28)

In a move likely to have major ramifications for the library world, Google announced Dec 14 that it would embark on an ambitious project to digitally scan books from the collections of five major research libraries and make them searchable online. Once the works are entered into Google's database, searchers will be able to access the full text of older books that are in the public domain.

2. Library Service without Wires: Connectivity and Content (Public Libraries, November/December 2004, Vol. 21, Iss. 11 pp. 17 - 20)

When technically adept library customers graduate from hard-wired desktop computers to portable devices such as laptops and personal digital assistants, an entirely new door of service delivery opens. In order to serve this mobile clientele libraries have cut cords to provide wireless access to the Internet where it did not exist and develop content suitable for delivery on the tiny browsers of handheld devices. Here, Paula Wilson, Web/Outreach Services Coordinator at the Maricopa County Library District, presents details on the wireless services implemented by many libraries.

3. There Are Alternatives to Fit Every Budget (Computers in Libraries, January 2005, Vol. 25, Iss.1, pp. 24 - 27)

Janet L. Balas, a library information systems specialist at Monroeville (Pa.) Public Library, offers several alternatives and reasonably priced solutions on how to improve old no automated system for scheduling public rooms. Among

other things, searching for workable solutions that fit within a budget is a skill that most librarians acquire very early in their careers for library budgets always seem to be just a bit too tight.

4. Critiquing the Curriculum (American Libraries, January 2005, Vol. 36, Iss. 1, pp. 58 - 61)

Wayne A. Wiegand, professor of library and information studies and professor of American studies at Florida State University in Tallahassee, comments on the library and information science (LIS) research and the LIS curriculum. He opines that overlooking reading and place in the professional discourse, library faculties deprive themselves and the students of opportunities to develop a much more deeper understanding of the library in the life of the user. He suggests that to carry out research that will address library practice and to provide a well-rounded education that prepares the students in the world of librarianship, library faculties must make adjustments in research and teaching agendas to accommodate questions of place and reading that are important to patrons.

5. Silence is OLDEN (American Libraries, January 2005, Vol. 36, Iss. 1, pp. 48 - 52)

Some patrons long for a noiseless sanctuary, while others, including many librarians, go to noisy length to reject the stereotypical shushers of old. Susan DiMattia, consultant, writer, and educator, unveils the issue of whether there's room for the sound of silence in a bustling, modern library.

6. Reverse Engineering: A Controversy (Information Today, January 2005, Vol. 22, Iss. 1,

pp. 17 – 20)

In what may be a surprise to some, not everything that the information industry creates can be copyrighted. Copyright protection only applies to works that are original and expressive, not to works that consist of facts, ideas, concepts, or processes. This principle also extends to the ideas, facts, concepts, or processes contained within an otherwise copyrighted work. A more complex situation arises when dealing with digital information and software. Unlike reading a book, however, accessing the noncopyrighted content may not be practical due to technological measures or licensing restrictions. The Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA) strengthened these restrictions by making it illegal to circumvent a technology-protection measure. A controversial solution to this situation that is often applied in software applications is reverse engineering.

**7. The Latest on Blogs, Search Engines, and Content Integration
(Information Today, January 2005, Vols. 22, Iss. 1, pp. 7 – 12)**

It's looking official. Blogs have hit the mainstream. There have been some interesting blog-related announcements to note. HighBeam Research appointed a new chief blogging officer. Christopher Locke, blogger and co-author of The Cluetrain Manifesto, is helping HighBeam develop tools that make it easy for bloggers to enhance their blogs with information found on the HighBeam Research Engine. As tools are developed, they will be showcased at ChiefBloggingOfficer.com.

**8. Current and Emerging Challenges for the Future of Library and Archival Preservation
(Library Resources and Technical Services, January 2005, Vol. 49, Iss. 1, pp. 32 - 40)**

Confronted with increasingly rapid technological developments and the likelihood of continued

economic constraints, libraries face numerous challenges in the coming years that are already affecting their operating models. While many functions are well-established, the responsibility of adequately preserving our collections remains a mandate only partially fulfilled. Many of the same developments that increase access complicate preservation efforts by increasing the competition for diminishing resources, expanding the number of options available, and fundamentally questioning established norms such as the notion of permanence. This paper explores the impact of these trends on the library's role as memory institution and poses questions about the near future of preservation in the research library.

**9. Library Development: A Long-Term Strategy for Library Funding
(Library Administration & Management, Winter 2005, Vol. 19, Iss. 2, pp. 7 - 16)**

Compared with other areas of library management, library development has received little attention in the library literature. Many of the important works related to development were written more than a decade ago. This is especially significant in a time of economic downturn. Although often thought of as the domain of large research libraries, the need for library development and fundraising is especially important for small, specialized libraries, some of which struggle to maintain fiscal soundness.

NOTE: Library Info Alert is available to subscribers only. You may contact us through telephone, fax or e-mail to order the requested material. Full text of articles will be faxed to you as soon as possible. Please send your comments and remarks to AthensIRC@state.gov.

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